



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Highway  
Administration**

Washington Division

Suite 501 Evergreen Plaza  
711 South Capitol Way  
Olympia, Washington 98501-1284  
(360) 753-9480  
(360) 753-9889 (FAX)  
<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/wadiv>

January 24, 2008

HDE-WA/ 435.6

Ms. Paula J. Hammond  
Secretary of Transportation  
Department of Transportation  
Olympia, Washington  
Attention: Pasco Bakotich III, P.E.

**Proprietary Items - Statewide  
Blanket for Concrete Faced  
Structural Earth Walls**

Dear Ms. Hammond:

We have reviewed and approve your request to extend the blanket approval for the use of the proprietary items Tensar's Mesa Wall and Keystone Retaining Wall System's Keysystem on Federal-aid projects through June 2009.

Please contact me at 360-534-9323 if you have any questions about this action.

Sincerely,

DANIEL M. MATHIS, P.E.  
Division Administrator

By: Donald A. Petersen  
Division Safety/Design Engineer

CC: Dick Albin, 47330

**MOVING THE  
AMERICAN  
ECONOMY**

DESIGN OFFICE

JAN 29, 2008

RECEIVED



06-0054

U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Highway  
Administration**

Washington Division

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Olympia, Washington 98501-1284  
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September 25, 2006

HDE-WA/500

Mr. Douglas B. MacDonald  
Secretary of Transportation  
Department of Transportation  
Olympia, Washington

Attention: Harold Peterfeso

**Proprietary Items - Statewide Blanket for  
Concrete Faced Structural Earth Walls**

Dear Mr. MacDonald:

We have reviewed the documentation submitted with your September 11, 2006, letter requesting FHWA approval of a proprietary item.

The request is for the statewide use of Tensar's Mesa Wall and Keystone Retaining Wall System's Keysystem through the 2005-2007 Biennium. These are the only systems have successfully completed WSDOT's pre-approval process.

We approve the use of these proprietary products. We understand that additional systems will be evaluated as they are submitted to WSDOT for consideration.

Sincerely,

DANIEL M. MATHIS, P.E.  
Division Administrator

**Donald A. Petersen**

By: Donald A. Petersen  
Division Safety/Design Engineer

Enclosure

cc: Dick Albin, 47330  
Lori Beebe, 47330



ORIGINALS sent to FHWA

9/12/06

06-0054



**Washington State  
Department of Transportation**  
**Douglas B. MacDonald**  
Secretary of Transportation

**Transportation Building**  
310 Maple Park Avenue S.E.  
P.O. Box 47300  
Olympia, WA 98504-7300  
  
360-705-7000  
TTY: 1-800-833-6388  
[www.wsdot.wa.gov](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov)

September 11, 2006

Mr. Dan Mathis  
Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration  
711 South Capitol Way, Suite 501  
Olympia, WA 98501-1284

Attn: Don Petersen

**Subject: Statewide Blanket Proprietary Concrete Block Faced Structural Earth Walls  
Proprietary Item Request**

Dear Mr. Mathis:

Attached is a statewide blanket approval request for the two pre-approved structural earth wall systems referenced in the Washington State Department of Transportation General Special Provisions used in contracts throughout the State.

As stated in the request these items are the only two concrete block faced structural earth wall systems that meet WSDOT pre-approval process at this time. The Bridge and Structures division continue to evaluate alternative concrete block faced structural earth wall systems.

It is possible that these items will be used on future New/Reconstruction projects, thus these requests are being forwarded to FHWA.

We concur with the request for proprietary item use through September 2008.

Sincerely,

Richard Albin  
Assistant State Design Engineer

RA:sdl



**Washington State  
Department of Transportation**

Memorandum

September 7, 2006

TO: H. Peterfeso/D. Albin  
E&EP/Design - 47330

FROM: R. A. Lewis/M. H. Bauer *MB*

PHONE: 705-7396/705-7190

SUBJECT: Concrete Block Faced Structural Earth Wall  
GSP13033.GB6

The Bridge and Structures Office requests blanket proprietary item approval for the two concrete block faced structural earth wall products, currently specified in GSP 13033.GB6, through September 2008.

As stewards for the public interest, the Bridge and Structures Office and Materials Laboratory Geotechnical Services Branch are responsible for overseeing the process for reviewing wall systems seeking WSDOT pre-approval as structural earth wall systems. This pre-approval process currently includes successful completion of a technical evaluation similar to that formerly performed by the Highway Innovative Technology Evaluation Center (HITEC) of Washington DC, as well as an internal WSDOT review of the wall system components and design calculations for representative walls.

Since the inception of the structural earth wall GSP in the early 1980's, Tensar's Mesa Wall and Keystone Retaining Wall System's KeySystem I wall are the only two concrete block faced structural earth wall systems to have successfully completed the WSDOT pre-approval process.

At this time, we know of no other concrete block faced structural earth wall systems either seeking pre-approval from WSDOT or with a strong enough performance record to merit successful completion of the WSDOT pre-approval process. For this reason, the Bridge and Structures Office deems the use of the two specified concrete block faced structural earth wall systems to be in the public's interest.

We will continue to evaluate alternative concrete block faced structural earth wall systems as they are submitted to this office and the Materials Laboratory Geotechnical Services Branch for consideration.

If you have questions concerning this request, please contact Mike Bauer at (360)-705-7190.

RAL:dm  
MHB

cc: J. G. Cuthbertson, Materials Laboratory - 47365  
M. Talukdar, Bridge and Structures- 47340